



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
550 MAIN STREET
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

APR 5 2007

Dear Great Lakes Stakeholder:


As a Great Lakes stakeholder, I am certain that you are aware of the challenges and constraints we face in fostering the prosperity and sustainability of the Great Lakes navigation system.

Over the past six months, our Great Lakes Navigation community has come together several times to discuss the important and timely topic of investment in the Great Lakes Navigation System. We met in Cincinnati, OH to discuss system strategies to reduce risk and improve the reliability of the navigation projects under our stewardship. We continued that discussion with a meeting in Cleveland, OH in January 2007 to discuss system performance metrics to ensure that we are doing everything we can to optimize the investments made in the Great Lakes Navigation System. I have been very pleased with both the amount and quality of input and ideas that these meetings generated. I am writing to you today about our next stakeholder meeting, which I expect will be as successful as the previous two meetings.

I cordially invite you to join the Corps and other Great Lakes stakeholders in Middleburg Heights, OH (just south of Cleveland) on May 3, 2007 to further the development of critical Great Lakes system needs and strategies for success. The purpose of the meeting is to have an open discussion of system needs so we have a clear understanding of stakeholder issues and concerns before we begin preparation of the FY2009 budget. I know that by continuing to work together we can develop solutions to the serious investment challenges we face. I have been very pleased with the open, two-way communication that is taking place between the Corps and stakeholders and I look forward to continuing that dialogue.

Details on the meeting location and hotel arrangements are enclosed. I have also included a preliminary agenda for your consideration. Please feel free to contact Marie Strum by phone at (313) 226-6794 or email at Marie.T.Strum@usace.army.mil with any comments or suggestions on the draft agenda. Also, please pass this invitation on to any colleagues who may be interested. I look forward to meeting with you in May.

Sincerely,


Bruce A. Berwick
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Division Engineer

Enclosure